

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3, 5-6 and 9-10 are pending herein. Claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 7-8 and 11-14 were cancelled previously without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. Initially, Applicants thank Examiner Peselev for indicating allowability of Claims 2-3 and 5-6. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable Claim 2, and part of Claim 4 to overcome the rejection thereof under §112. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1, and Claims 3, 5-6 and 9-10 depending therefrom, are all allowable.

2. Claims 1, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Kumar et al. (U.S. Patent 6,077,643), and Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. In view of the amendment to Claim 1 and cancellation of Claim 4, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are moot and are respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

### **CONCLUSION**

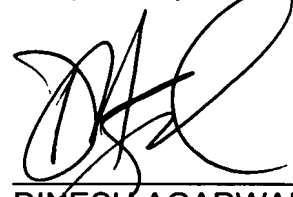
For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 3, 5-6 and 9-10 are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of all the rejections and objections and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

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It is believed that no additional fee is due for this submission. However, should that determination be incorrect, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 01-0433, and notify the undersigned in due course.

Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to discuss further this matter, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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